



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/757,145	01/14/2004	Randal J. Jolitz	55616.107495	3169

27526 7590 03/24/2006

BLACKWELL SANDERS PEPER MARTIN LLP
4801 Main Street
Suite 1000
KANSAS CITY, MO 64112

EXAMINER

CHAPMAN, JEANETTE E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3635

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/757,145	JOLITZ, RANDAL J.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chapman E. Jeanette	3635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/14/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 3635

Claims 1 and 12 are objected to for the following reasons:

- Claims 1 and 12: the height of the front surface greater than that of the back does not automatically create or to infer that the two sides surfaces are tapered and "a shingle placed flat on the top surface will extend back.....". Further, applicant has not positively recited the tapered side surfaces

35 USC 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirkhuff (3852934) in view of Gleason et al (4279106). Kirkuff discloses a starter block for facilitating the subsequent positioning of shingles upon a hip roof, the starter block 72 comprising:

1. a top surface 74
2. two side surfaces
3. front surface 82 having a rectangular face
4. back surface 80 having a rectangular face
5. the height of the front surface is greater than that of the back surface
6. a shingle 14 placed flat on the top surface 74 will extend back to the roof without bending. See figure 4

Art Unit: 3635

7. The width of the starter strip is substantially equal to the width of the shingle,
column 8, lines 45-50
8. a nailing zone on the top surface, figure 4
9. the starter block is made of a polymer material but does not include a filler
commonly used in shingles as shown by Kirkhoff, column 6, lines 46-64. It would
have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have the starter block
made of not only a foam polyurethane but also a filler like the shingle to create a
uniform structure to the roof
10. the front surface is shown in figure 3 to be twice the height of the back; the
particular dimensions of the starter block/shingle has been considered a matter
of choice; one of ordinary skill in the art would have appreciated the dimension of
the shingle to be used and would have fashioned the starter block accordingly
11. the top surface resembles a slate
12. a coarse of starter blocks

Kirkhuff lacks the tapered side edges. However tapered side edges is known in the art of shingles as shown by Gleason et al, element 14, figure 3. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kirkhuff to taper any edge to give a finished or different appearance to starter block as shown by Gleason et al.

Art Unit: 3635

Claims 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirkhuff (3852934) in view of Gleason et al (4279106) as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Earhardt (5953862).

The nailing zone is not indented as shown by Earhardt et al , see abstract. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kirhuff to include the indented nailing zone to accommodate proper placement of the nail upon installation of the starter block and shingles.

Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirkhuff (3852934) in view of Gleason et al (4279106) as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Bussey (2142996). Kirkhoff lacks the nibs extending from the side surfaces of the shingle/starter block. Bussey discloses nibs 24/26/25 extending from the side surface of his roofing shingle 27. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include these nibs on the starter block/shingle of Kirkhoff to provide an aligning means upon installation of the starter block/shingles on the roof.

Claims 12-15 and 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardy (2193233) in view of Kirkhoff and Gleason et al (4279106) and further in view of Hudson, Jr. et al (6199338).

Hardy discloses a starter block 11 for facilitating the subsequent positioning of shingles upon a hip roof, the starter block 1 comprising:

13. a top surface

Art Unit: 3635

14. two side surfaces
15. front surface having a rectangular face
16. back surface having a rectangular face
17. the height of the front surface is greater than that of the back surface
18. a shingle 12/13/14 placed flat on the top surface will extend back to the roof without bending. See figure 2
19. The width of the starter strip is not disclosed as being equal to the shingle as shown by Kirkhoff; see below
20. a nailing zone on the top surface, figure 3
21. the starter block is made of a polymer material but does not include a filler commonly used in shingles as shown by Kirkhoff, column 6, lines 46-64. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have the starter block made of not only a foam polyurethane but also a filler like the shingle to create a uniform structure to the roof
22. the front surface is shown in figure 3 to be twice the height of the back; the particular dimensions of the starter block/shingle has been considered a matter of choice; one of ordinary skill in the art would have appreciated the dimension of the shingle to be used and would have fashioned the starter block accordingly
23. Kirkhoff discloses a top surface resembling a slate; it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify hardy to include the top slate to more readily accommodate the shingle as shown by Kirkhoff
24. a coarse of starter blocks

Art Unit: 3635

Hardy lacks the tapered side edges. However tapered side edges is known in the art of shingles as shown by Gleason et al, element 14, figure 3. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify hardy to taper any edge to give a finished or different appearance to starter block as shown by Gleason et al.

Hudson discloses a course of starter shingles of the same length as the shingles. Though Kirkhoff hints at a course of starter blocks, Hudson discloses the course of starter shingles commensurate in dimension with the shingle. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Hardy to include a starter shingle commensurate in dimension with the starter shingle in order to facilitate easy installation as suggested by Hudson and Kirkhoff.

Claims 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardy in view of Kirkhoff (3852934), Gleason et al (4279106) and Hudson as applied to claim 12 and further in view of Earhardt (5953862).

The nailing zone is not indented as shown by Earhardt et al, see abstract. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Hardy to include the indented nailing zone to accommodate proper placement of the nail upon installation of the starter block and shingles as shown by Earhardt.

Claims 6-7 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirkhoff (3852934), Gleason et al (4279106) and Hudson as applied to claim 12 and


Art Unit: 3635

further in view of Bussey (2142996). Hardy lacks the nibs extending from the side surfaces of the shingle/starter block. Bussey discloses nibs 24/26/25 extending from the side surface of his roofing shingle 27. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include these nibs on the starter block/shingle of Kirkhoff to provide an aligning means upon installation of the starter block/shingles on the roof.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chapman E Jeanette whose telephone number is 571-272-6841. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri, 8:30-6:00, every other fri. off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Friedman Carl can be reached on 571-272-6842. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


JEANETTE E. CHAPMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3635